Demand for more funds for rural development

2355. SHRIMATI ABMIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the meeting of Chief Ministers with Prime Minister, number of CMs have demanded more funds for rural development from Centre;

(b) whether North Eastern States demanded revision of funding pattern for Centrally sponsored rural development schemes;

(c) if so, by what time final decision for providing funds to rural development will be taken; and

(d) what is the total allotment of funds made in the present budget for rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The North Eastern States have been demanding the revision of present funding pattern of Centrally sponsored schemes of rural development from 75:25 to 90:10. A definite time-frame cannot be indicated for a decision as it involves several Ministries and stages.

(d) The proposed total allocation of funds for the rural development schemes is Rs. 15998.40 crore during the current financial year *i.e.* 2004-05.

Conversion of barren land into agriculture land

†2356. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the period since when Government plans to convert the barren land into agriculture land has been implemented;

(b) the State-wise details of the last three years with regard to extent of success achieved and amount spent so far in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.